



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

January 21, 2014 @ 9:00 a.m.

Executive Tower

1700 W. Washington

2nd Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Cathleen Barton, Rusty Bowers, Dan Brown, Dr. Maria Harper Marinick, Diane McCarthy, Mary Murphy, Dr. Amy Schlessman, Darcy Renfro, Christine Thompson, Tom Tyree, Chair Merl Waschler, and Dr. Jim Zaharis (telephonic).

Members Not Present: Patti Bertram, Mark Dobbins, Pearl Esau, Marv Lamer, Sam Leyvas, Amanda McAdams, Kent Scribner, and Carolyn Warner.

Staff Present: Dale Frost, Rebecca Gau (telephonic), and Brad Schroeter

Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions

Merl Waschler called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of this meeting, which was receive updates on the Workforce Arizona Council Conference, Alternative Education, Lecroy-Milligan Recommendations, and Graduation Rate Research Project.

Quorum was met at 9:16 with the arrival of Rusty Bowers and Christine Thompson. Diane McCarthy moved for the approval of the November 13th, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Maria Harper Marinick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Update: Workforce Arizona Council Conference

Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI) updated the Task Force on the Workforce Arizona Council Conference. She listed several different groups and individuals who are taking part in the forming of this conference and invited Task Force members who wish to become part of it themselves to contact her so that she can connect them.

Update: Alternative Education

Dr. Amy Schlessman with Rose Academies presented the Task Force with information to follow-up on the presentation she gave in January. She informed the Task Force that there are multiple ways for a school to obtain alternative school status. She also provided much information on how many accommodation schools are in each county, as well as which counties do not have accommodation districts, how many schools are AOIs, and other similar in depth information

specifically regarding Arizona's alternative schooling system and the graduation rates of these schools.

Update: Lecroy-Milligan Recommendations

Phillip Brown, a private consultant currently contracted by Lecroy-Milligan, presented the Task Force with an introduction to the Graduation Rate Task Force Project he had begun to work on. He began with providing the Task Force with background on himself (which included 30+ years of experience in the field of education), and he went on to outline the process of how he plans on conducting his report and the corresponding timeline for doing so.

Mr. Brown then heard several comments and suggestions from Task Force members regarding how he how plans to conduct his research, what steps he plans to take, and what they would like to see come out of the final report.

Update: Graduation Rate Research Project

Brad Schroeter with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation provided the Task Force with an update on the Graduation Rate Research Project. Mr. Schroeter outlined how many high schools were currently participating and how many he had left to contact. He also displayed some of the results from his preliminary data collection, which largely included general statistical information such as what percentage of schools track how their students do after graduation, how many principals are new to their positions, and which schools do and do not have established parent-teacher organizations.

Council Comments

Dr. Schlessman announced that Tucson is having a national school choice "Whistle Stop" event on January 29th.

Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to address the Task Force.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Taskforce, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.